

TRIBUTE TO THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA'S DEPARTMENT OF PLANT PATHOLOGY

## HON. TIMOTHY J. WALZ

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, September 14, 2007*

Mr. WALZ of Minnesota. Madam Speaker, today I rise to commemorate the 100th anniversary of the Department of Plant Pathology at the University of Minnesota.

I would like to applaud the University of Minnesota's Department of Plant Pathology for its dedication to furthering knowledge of plant pathology and its work in developing genetic and biological controls that have helped increase crop production in Minnesota and across the world. The contributions of this Department to ecological plant genetics, and the work done by the Department's researchers to improve plant resistance to diseases and weather conditions, have been profoundly important to world's ability to raise higher quality crops and feed a growing population.

For well over a century, multi-national food companies have originated in Minnesota. Because of the importance of the grain milling industry to the economy of our then-young state, the threat of disease to the wheat, barley or oat crop was cause for great concern. Early members of this Department helped ensure that these key crops remained healthy, with research that stabilized crop production and prevented losses from disease.

Today, the Department is recognized as a national and global leader in Plant Pathology and its research continues to improve the production capabilities and practices of farmers across the nation and around the world. For example, the Department's work on Soybean Aphids has lead to the use of Asian Wasps as a biological control, a research breakthrough that may save soybean producers millions of dollars each year in reduced input costs and prevented crop losses.

The impact of this Department is also measured through the success of its alumni. Dr. Norman Borlaug earned his bachelor's degree from this Department in 1937, his master's degree in 1939 and his doctorate in 1942. But that was only the start of the recognition that this remarkable alumni would receive. In 1970, he won the Nobel Peace Prize, and in July, he received the Congressional Gold Medal.

A plant pathologist by training, he has spent the better part of six decades fighting hunger in Africa, Asia and Mexico. With his tireless work in breeding high-yielding, disease-resistant varieties of wheat, he has saved—by some estimates—as many as one billion lives from malnutrition and starvation.

For their 100 years of service to the farmers, businesses and citizens of Minnesota and the world, I commend the faculty, staff, students and alumni of the University of Minnesota's Department of Plant Pathology and I look forward to many more years of their continued success.

ELEANOR MCGOVERN POST OFFICE BUILDING

SPEECH OF

## HON. LYNN C. WOOLSEY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, September 10, 2007*

Ms. WOOLSEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to join my colleagues in honoring the life of Eleanor McGovern and in support of H.R. 2654, a bill to name a post office in South Dakota, in tribute to her legacy.

Eleanor was a great advocate for children and families, both through volunteering and personally helping underprivileged families and by addressing these issues through public policy. Most people know her as the wife of Senator George McGovern—but she was an influential and outspoken figure in her own right. While her husband was running for president, she traveled across the country displaying her impressive rhetorical skills and changing traditional perceptions of a woman's role in public life.

She was also a key advisor to her husband, one of our most distinguished American statesmen and humanitarians, and a very principled anti-war leader. Eleanor believed wholeheartedly in the causes they championed, in the battles they won and those they lost. She contributed her time and efforts to a number of organizations over the years, serving on the boards of directors for the Psychiatric Institute Foundation, the Child Study Association, the Erickson Institute of Chicago, and the Odysse House of New York. Following her daughter's death, she also helped found the McGovern Family Foundation dedicated to research into alcoholism, and established the Martha Movement, which championed the rights of homemakers.

I pay tribute to the legacy she leaves behind and the tremendous good work she did. She was truly a force for change. I'm so thankful for the life, the service, and the good will of Eleanor McGovern.

## CELEBRATING CULTURAL DIVERSITY IN NEW YORK CITY

## HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, September 14, 2007*

Mr. RANGEL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to introduce an article entitled "Promises of More To Come," published in the New York CARIB News on July 27, 2007. This article highlights the National Association of Barbados Organization's (NABO) Annual gathering in Queens, NY where 200-plus Bajans, people from Barbadian descent, were present.

The NABO convention in Queens is a prime example of the rich diversity of cultures and people in New York City where a multiplicity of peoples from all over the world have come to live. It is exciting for me to know that events such as the NABO convention take place in New York City because I believe that the city benefits from the richness of cultures and exchange of ideas. The NABO convention is a fine example of this type of cultural exchange.

[From CaribNews, July 27, 2007]

PROMISES OF MORE TO COME

(By Tony Best)

The spacious hotel overlooking La Guardia Airport may not be in the heart of busy New York City but it is far from a drab, unexciting place to hold a convention.

The Crowne Plaza's large ballroom, its theater-style meeting room, and the quiet Queens neighborhood may not offer the atmosphere of a City that never sleeps but it offered its own charm that grabbed and held the attention of the 200-plus Bajans who attended the National Association of Barbados Organization's annual gathering.

The Bajans came from the across the U.S., the Caribbean, Canada and Britain.

"It turned out quite well for us," said Mike Cummings, Chairman of the NABO, an umbrella organization that brings together more than 20 associations of Barbadians in the U.S. and the Caribbean. "The convention was one of the largest and among the best we have had so far."

Pat Sobers-Fergusson, President of the Barbados-American Organization of Philadelphia, shared Cummings' assessments.

"It was my first NABO convention and I enjoyed it," she said.

The convention, which began with an opening reception and a launching of a three-day EXPO, organized by the Barbados Investment and Development Corporation, BIDC, ended with a church service at the hotel.

And with eyes focused on Barbados where NABO plans to hold its 2008 convention, the meeting with its emphasis on youth may have set the stage for an interesting gathering on "the rock," as Bajans often call their birthplace.

"I look forward to welcoming the membership of NABO, together with counterparts from Canada and the United Kingdom when you hold your joint homecoming conference in Barbados in 2008," said Dame Billie Miller, Barbados' Foreign Minister and Minister of Foreign Trade during a feature address at the awards banquet.

"The New York convention may have set the stage, the appropriate tone and atmosphere for what's to follow next year," said Jessica Odle, Consul-General in New York.

The workshops, breakfast sessions, luncheon meeting, the EXPO, a dance in Brooklyn and other events were followed by the highlight of the convention, the awards banquet.

Dame Billie took the opportunity to bring the Bajans up-to-speed on the recent U.S. Caribbean Conference in Washington, which she described as "an unprecedented event on the landscape of Caribbean-United States relations."

The Minister pointed out that the region's leaders, the West Indian Diaspora and the top officials of the Bush Administration, including President George Bush, senior members of Congress, the private sector, "eminent scholars and entrepreneurs" came together "to build out a work program for interaction between the Caribbean community and the Caribbean Diaspora in the United States of America."

Focusing on the Convention's theme of "Rekindling Pride and Industry by mentoring our youth."

Dame Billie said that with the 18-35 year olds accounting for about 30 per cent of the region's "productive labor capacity," the youth in and out of the Caribbean and the Diaspora "must be encouraged to contribute and produce."

She cited the work being done by the "Young Barbadian Professional Society as an example of what could be done, explaining that the "mission of this Society is to use the intellectual capital of its members to further advance positive transformations in the Barbadian and Caribbean communities."